

or the food on our plates? Many people have different views on what makes America great, but to me, freedom is the only answer. Without freedom, we would not be able to choose our religion. Without freedom, we would not be able to state our opinions. Without freedom, we would not be able to express the many talents God has given us. As Americans, we have laws protecting us against religious persecution. We are free to worship as we choose. We are also free to choose to not worship. We are able to criticize our government without being thrown in jail and we are able to decide our future career. There are many things that make America great, but freedom is most important to me. I stand strong saying, "I'm proud to be an American!"

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the students who participated in the "What Makes America Great" essay contest, and also in offering a special word of congratulations to our four finalists.

#### BIRTH OF SANTIAGO ROYBAL OLIVAREZ

#### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the best and most notable announcement a Member of Congress can ever make about a constituent: my grandson, Santiago Roybal Olivarez was born on Friday, May 16, 2003.

Santiago is blessed to have a full contingent of doting family members ready to spoil him as soon as circumstances allow. My husband, Ed Allard, and I constitute one pair of loving grandparents. We are joined in our admiration of little Santiago by his maternal grandmother, Josefita Prietto. Santiago's great-grandparents—my father, former Representative Edward Roybal, and my mother, Lucille Beserra Roybal—and all his aunts and uncles, help complete the circle of Santiago's extensive admiration society.

Better yet, Santiago has an admiring big brother in 1-year-old Diego. Diego has undergone major health problems since his own birth, causing real worries for his parents, Ricardo and Rory Olivarez. I hope very few parents will ever know the anxiety that Ricardo and Rory have experienced as the parents of a child inexplicably and unexpectedly born with an undiagnosed birth defect as they went forward faithfully with a second pregnancy. So everyone in the Roybal family, as well as Ricardo's and Rory's many friends who understand what they have gone through during the past 18 months, now share their joy that 7 pound, 6 ounce Santiago is healthy and happy.

Last Friday, I was fortunate to be with Rory and Ricardo on the wonderful day of Santiago's birth, and I intend to exercise my prerogatives as grandmother, to be first in line for babysitting duty for newborn Santiago and big brother Diego.

Speaking on behalf of baby Santiago, I know that he is well prepared, along with big brother Diego, to provide Ricardo and Rory many joyous days and sleepless nights in the weeks and months to come. I know my colleagues join me in wishing the Olivarez family the very best in the years ahead.

#### ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to express my support for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Made possible through an act of the United States Congress in 1978, Asian Pacific American Heritage Week was then expanded into a month long celebration in 1992. The month of May was appropriately chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States and the completion of the transcontinental railroad. As we celebrate the 25th year, this May is an excellent opportunity for all Americans to celebrate, honor and reflect on the many accomplishments and contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

From the transcontinental railroad to the halls of Congress, Asian Pacific Americans have played a major role in the development of our nation with an increasing presence in the Federal government. I would like to acknowledge the many accomplished leaders of Asian descent currently serving our country. In the President's Cabinet alone, we have two prominent leaders, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, the first Asian Pacific American to serve in the President's Cabinet. Congressman BOB MATSUI, Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, is the first Asian Pacific American to serve in the House Democratic leadership. Washington Governor Gary Locke, Chair of the Democratic Governors Association, is the first Asian Pacific American to deliver the Democratic response to the President's State of the Union Address.

And of course, one cannot have a discussion about leadership within the Asian Pacific American community without reflecting on the career and accomplishments of my dear friend, the late Congresswoman PATSY MINK. We must continue on in this tradition by encouraging more Asian Pacific Americans to forge ahead in non-traditional sectors as my friend PATSY MINK did. PATSY was a true trailblazer. She was the first Asian Pacific American woman to practice law in Hawaii and the first woman of color elected to Congress. The APA community has come far from its humble beginnings, but there is still much work we need to do.

While APAs as a whole have flourished in the United States, there are still challenges facing certain segments of the community. Recent immigrants and refugees are still working to achieve the American dream. My district is home to Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander populations whose challenges include post-war stress and inadequate job skills. I urge my colleagues not to forget those who are struggling to overcome language and cultural barriers, as well as discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation that will ensure the Asian Pacific American community continues to thrive. In the 108th Congress, I have introduced the following bills:

- H.R. 1984, the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act, provides veteran benefits to the Filipino

veterans who fought side by side with American soldiers during World War II. In addition to providing desperately needed health care to veterans, this bill calls for home loan assistance for U.S. based Filipino veterans, educational assistance for U.S. and Philippine based dependents, vocational rehabilitation, and employment services, job counseling, training, and placement services for U.S. based veterans.

- H.R. 1486 urges the Secretary of Education to commission a study to examine ways to increase the graduation rate for Native American and Native Hawaiian secondary school students, as well as for students residing in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

- H.R. 1983, the Amerasian Justice Act, will amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to facilitate the immigration to the United States of children born in the Philippines or Japan who were fathered by United States citizens. There are now more than 50,000 Amerasian children in the Philippines and 6,000 Amerasian children in Japan burdened by social stigma and psychological stress which affect viable opportunities for employment, education or family life.

- H. Con. Res. 83 honors the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place between 1975 and 1979, and pays tribute to the survivors who made their way to the United States. It also expresses the sense of Congress's commitment to pursue justice for the victims.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a district that reflects America's greatest strength—our rich cultural diversity. As we commemorate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we must celebrate the culture, traditions and achievements of Asian Pacific Americans, but we must also reflect on how to meet the challenges that will face the community in years to come.

#### HONORING JOHN MILBURN

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and constituent, John Milburn, his retirement from the Meadows School in Las Vegas.

John was born in Waga Wag, Australia. He moved to the United States in 1961 to attend the University of Oregon. John was the first Australian to be recruited for a college basketball team. John became a United States Citizen in 1990.

After completing his undergraduate work and a Masters in Education at the University of Oregon, he moved to Nevada and became a teacher at Boulder City High School. He spent 30 years at Boulder City High, teaching Physics, Chemistry, AP Physics, and AP Chemistry.

He coached the boys basketball team for 28 years at Boulder City High School, and led them to 8 State Championships. John was honored this year by being inducted in the Boulder City Coaches Hall of Fame.

John left Boulder City High School to become a teacher at the Meadows School in Las Vegas. He is now retiring after having spent